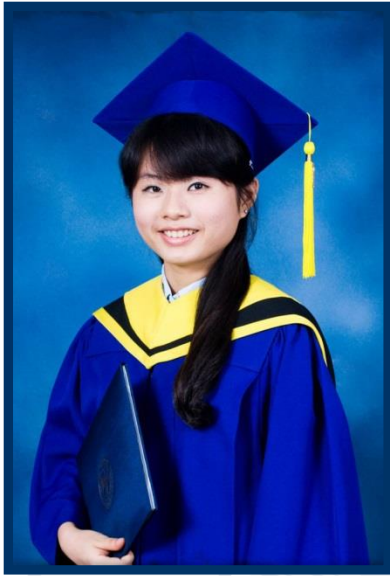




Changing the world, one student at a time...

Wells International School

Class of 2013 Valedictorian Speech



Written and delivered by the Class of 2013's valedictorian, Tsai Chi "Cathy" Shang Kuan. Cathy now attends Taiwan National University.

Good evening to all the families, friends, teachers and staff who are here tonight. Thank you for joining the Class of 2013 graduation ceremony and for making this possible.

It seems like only yesterday when I first came to Wells to begin 7th grade, 6 years ago. I remember many of my classmates here looked so young and small back then; all the boys still tucked their school uniforms neatly in their pants and none of the girls folded their skirts. As youngsters, middle school was both a time of excitement and confusion. Most of us were anxious about questions like "How am I going to fit in?" "Does he like me?" or if you're a guy, "Is she interested in me?" I myself was particularly troubled by the idea of having to work together with boys during events like the overnight camps. A lot has happened since those days, and we grew from confused freshmen to sophisticated sophomores

who thought they had their futures all mapped out. By the time our junior year began, we felt like we were ready to "rule the school" in place of the graduating seniors. And just a few months ago, we were still busy finalizing our application essays hoping to turn them in on time. But look at us now, we are graduating and preparing to move on to college - I hope.

This day, May 23rd, 2013, marks an end to one path but also the beginning of another. It is up to us to decide how this journey is going to continue. I urge you to choose the course that one day you will be proud of. Meet your challenges and live your lives - not necessarily to the fullest, because sometimes that is not easily done - but live your lives being grateful with what you have and keeping in mind that you should always try your best. Follow your hearts, like Mr. Dan has been telling us: Chase your passions, and influence the world in a positive manner. There will always be obstacles along the way, but remember, when a plant's root is blocked by a piece of rock in the soil, it does not stop growing. Instead, it pushes itself through the rock and grows even bigger. Therefore, I ask every one of you to use the creativity and determination that we showed when organizing class events, such as our dance nights - use them to break those stones and walls in your lives and become greater and wiser.

Now that our rule is over, it's up to the next class to step into our shoes and take over. As we move on with our lives, I wish all of you the best of luck in pursuing your goals.

As I stand here on behalf of my class, we are thankful for all of those who have helped us along the way. Families, teachers, friends: Your guidance has made us who we are today. We will never forget the moments we shared together and the kind support you have given us. Before I end my speech tonight, I would like to share a quote that I've come across by Henry David Thoreau: "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined." May your journey through life lead you to the most amazing views.

Thank you.

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